

11 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

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FROM: [REDACTED]

Director, Office of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Request for Introduction of Members of the
Indochina Refugee Action Center to Potential
Corporate and Foundation Sources of Support

1. Action Requested: Accept or decline request for your help in introducing members of the Indochina Refugee Action Center to potential corporate and foundation sources that will support a development fund for Hmong refugees.

2. Background: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] requested in his private capacity as a member of the Indochina Refugee Action Center (IRAC) that you steer him to sources of corporate and foundation funds to support an economic development loan fund for Hmong resettlement. According to the Refugee Action Center, approximately 70,000 Hmong/highlander refugees are in the United States. No special strategy for their resettlement was devised, despite our close association with these people during the war years. Because of their continuing resettlement problems, the center is considering launching an economic development loan fund to assist the Hmong which would not be supportable by conventional lending institutions. The Department of Health and Human Services provides limited economic development funding, but this does not include "start-up capital." They believe that a development loan fund can help fill this gap by providing low interest seed money for development projects. The proposed ventures would be labor intensive, small projects such as agricultural production and marketing coops, packaging plants, maintenance services, and small family businesses where conventional financing is unavailable. Although risk level would be somewhat higher than what conventional banks might

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support, the Hmong applicants would have to provide a significant portion of funding as a check against unrealistic proposals. The Fund would attempt to develop a network of other creditors to share risk when feasible. The Center believes that such funds could have a rapid and significant catalytic effect on the Hmong community in the United States, pointing the way to independence and self-sufficiency.

The IRAC objectives are to help refugee organizations initiate self-help projects in impacted local communities, and to provide technical assistance to communities working with refugees.

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3. Recommendation: None. Indicate whether you are willing to assist [redacted] and have Public Affairs make an appropriate response.

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Attachments: A/S

YES, WILL PROVIDE FUNDING LEADS:

Director of Central Intelligence

(Date)

SORRY, UNABLE TO HELP:

Director of Central Intelligence

15 JUL 1983

(Date)

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